

Thank you Mr. Speaker. Like millions of American families, my own has been impacted by the loss of loved ones with debilitating diseases - my grandmother, Albina Carpenter, to cancer; my cousin, Betty Stoltz, to MS. We lost them too soon. That's one of the reasons I joined this bipartisan coalition to co-sponsor HR810, along with over 200 Democrats and Republicans in this House.

People from the Show-Me-State were polled not too long ago and 3/4 of them were in support of this research continuing - just like polls across the country when Nancy Reagan called to lift this Bush Administration ban on this research in 2004; 3/4 of Americans have come to support this cause.

There is great promise in this research since its isolation of the embryonic stem cell in 1998, research has made dramatic progress in the United States.

We can not and must not abandon our leadership role in the scientific community and in establishing strong ethical standards for this research.

I also became involved in this debate because of the extraordinary citizens in my Congressional district who advocate on its behalf.

Advocates like Bernie Frank, an accomplished St. Louisan and volunteer for the Parkinson's Action Network.

Advocates like Dr. Huskey, from Washington University. Dr. Huskey who suffers from MS and continues her advocacy.

And advocates like Rabbi Susan Talve and her young daughter Adina who suffers from a congenital heart defect. Early stem cell research has the potential to discover ways to grow new heart-muscle cells.

Mr. Speaker, the promise of stem cell research is real. Science, not politics, should determine the future of this vital research.

We stand here with the tools in our hands to ease the pain and suffering of so many across this country and around the world. To forego potentially life saving cures is simply unacceptable and unconscionable.

Thank you Mr. Speaker, I yield back.